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Loan requests to the Library of Congress require judgement calls when last resort materials are fragile or semi-rare. At left, Christopher Wright, acting chief of the Loan Division, and Vivienne Bourkoff, head of Interlibrary Loan, consider a request. In the background, senior loan reference technicians Jesse Rios and Tracie Coleman process incoming requests from libraries and the Congress.

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Alice Taylor, Acting Editor

Václav Havel, Czech President and Playwright, Visits the Library of Congress

President Havel signs copies of some of his own works for the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Looking on are Mr. Kovtun (left), an unidentified member of the delegation, Ambassador Black, and Mr. Tabb.

Václav Havel, president of Czechoslovakia, visited the Library of Congress on February 20.

He was accompanied by a Czechoslovak delegation that included: Marián Čalfa, prime minister; Jiří Dienstbier, minister of foreign affairs; Rita Klímová, Czechoslovak ambassador to the United States; Milan Kňažko, advisor to the president; Saša Vondra, advisor to the president; Václav Valeš, economic advisor to the prime minister; Michael Žantovský, press secretary to the president; and others.

Another prominent member of the entourage was the U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Shirley Temple Black.

A special display organized for President Havel and members of his delegation in the Librarian's Ceremonial Office focused on historical documents and rare items relating to Czechoslovak history.

President Havel was shown Thomas G. Masaryk's handwritten Czech draft of the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence and the final English version of the declaration issued on October 18, 1918; four letters written by Masaryk to President Woodrow Wilson in the period 1918–1923; the complete manuscript of Masaryk's book *Nova Evropa* (The New Europe); and a photograph of Masaryk taken by the famous Czech writer Karel Čapek.

The president was also shown the Library of Congress publications on Czechoslovakia.

President Havel was presented with color facsimiles and color prints of the Czech draft of the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence in a specially prepared box with the inscription in Czech, "From the Library of Congress to President Havel. February 20, 1990."

The atmosphere of the brief visit was friendly and warm. The president showed great interest in the displayed documents, even mentioning them briefly in his

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Putting the Books in the Readers' Hands: Interlibrary Loan at the Library of Congress

by Vivienne Bourkoff

Loan reference specialists use old and new styles of location searches: George Harshaw pages through the National Union Catalog, while Kathryn Blair scans the OCLC bibliographic database.

Congressional requests often require loans from other libraries or the purchase of additional copies of high-demand items. Abram Boni (left), head of Congressional Loan, meets with loan reference specialists Gwendolyn Happe and Mark Mattucci on whether to buy or borrow an item. Book jackets from the extra copy collection cover the wall.

[A] book used is, after all, fulfilling a higher mission than a book which is merely being preserved for possible future use.

So said Herbert Putnam, the eighth Librarian of Congress, who spoke these words in 1905 to justify what was considered by some a questionably liberal interlibrary loan policy.

Lending materials has been an unheralded service of the Library of Congress since its beginning, with loans to Members of the Congress and Supreme Court Justices dating back to the days when the Library was located in the U.S. Capitol. A formal interlibrary loan program has been in effect since the turn of the century.

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How did interlibrary loan begin at the Library of Congress? Very quietly. The Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1901 authorized certain government departments, including the Library of Congress, to make "facilities for research available to students and scientific investigators." Ahead of his time, Herbert Putnam understood the concept we now tout as "remote access" and interpreted "facilities" to mean reading materials as well as reading rooms.

Under this authority three books were issued on interlibrary loan in 1901 and 110 in 1902. Nearly a century later, over 50,000 interlibrary loan requests are received annually and more than 140,000 items are lent or photocopied for the use of the Congress, libraries throughout the world, and Library of Congress staff members.

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What gave Putnam this vision and commitment to interlibrary loan? Encouraged by President Theodore Roosevelt, Putnam believed that the

(Cont. on p. 120)

As computers take over circulation record-keeping tasks, human beings must deal with the hundreds of thousands of residual charges in the old paper central charge file. Elgin Reid, acting head of the Circulation Section, confers with searcher/editor Priscilla Cooke about a puzzling location record from the 1920s.

Loan *(Cont. from p. 119)*

Library of Congress was the national library and as such it was responsible for providing services to other libraries and American scholarship. He envisioned that the purpose of interlibrary lending was "to aid research calculated to advance the boundaries of knowledge."

He also believed in service. In 1901, for $2,000, he purchased an electric automobile "to make a delivery twice daily at any point within the ordinary limits."

Though the spirit of that electric automobile lives on, the technology of today's interlibrary loan and document delivery systems has far outstripped that homely device, and its modest price tag. The backbone of the Library's lending service now consists of an international repertoire of online databases, remote access online catalogs, electronic mail systems, FAX machines, and PC workstations.

Clients include Members of Congress, staff members of government agencies, scholars in every type of American library, and libraries in countries from Mongolia to Zaire.

One third of interlibrary loan requests come from foreign libraries; over half come from a wide variety of academic, corporate, and public libraries in the United States; and the sizeable remainder come from U.S. government libraries. The Library of Congress Loan Division itself borrowed over 800 items from other institutions last year for use by congressional and Library staff members, especially in preservation activities.

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What kinds of materials do libraries request? Everything that is published. A library in the Soviet Union requested America's view of *perestroika* as found in *The Gorbachev Phenomenon* by Moshe Lewin; a library in Outer Mongolia requested a view of the workplace as seen through the eyes of Peter Drucker; and a New Jersey public library is still borrowing obscure Tibetan religious texts to support a local effort by Buddhist monks to preserve texts in danger of disappearing under the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

Often over the years interlibrary loan has been a window on other countries' domestic politics. When the Polish government attempted to crush the Solidarity trade union in the early 1980s, loan requests from Poland dropped to zero as that country's economy and politics withered.

In contrast, in the changing climate of *glasnost* the Library of Congress is now able to borrow books for the European Division from the national library in Czechoslovakia, a country from which the Library once received not a single piece of mail.

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Who processes this avalanche of requests? The Loan Division has a staff

of 49 persons divided between the Reference and Circulation sections. Interlibrary loan is part of the Reference Section, and its staff members also provide the Library's loan service to the Congress. At any given time half of the staff members are working on interlibrary loans, the rest on requests from Members of Congress.

Over 55 percent of interlibrary loan requests require extensive research. The Library of Congress is the nation's library of last resort, which places a special responsibility on the staff to provide requested items, or information on possible sources. Staff members have a strong professional commitment to running down every clue both inside and outside the Library when trying to locate an obscure title. When they cannot provide material from the Library's collections, an alternative referral, however remote, is made.

Outgoing material is sent from the Reference Section to be processed by staff members in the 25-person Circulation Section, who make sure the client is a valid borrower and the item can be safely lent.

Since 1987 the Circulation Section has used an automated circulation system linked to the online catalog to track outgoing loans. Before that time, the majority of loans were recorded on typed slips and filed in a giant paper central charge file which is gradually diminishing as records are automated.

The new circulation system has enabled the Library to understand interlibrary loan patterns more clearly, and to correct some misconceptions. For instance, less than one tenth of one percent of items lent through interlibrary loan fail to return, and most of these are eventually replaced. Most titles are requested only once, thus countering the assertion that a patron in a reading room is likely to find out on loan the one item that he or she came across the country to use.

Library technicians Lillie Carey (left), Christine Mills, and Michael Neal use wand readers and bar codes to check the returning flood of interlibrary loans into the automated circulation system.

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Interlibrary loan technology has come a long way from Herbert Putnam's electric automobile, but it is still only beginning. The Loan Division is now experimenting with allowing libraries across the country to begin the interlibrary loan process by electronically paging books directly from Library of Congress stacks.

As interlibrary loan at the Library of Congress moves toward its second century, a multiplicity of services is envisioned involving new types of access and new methods of delivery, some based on more automated tools, and some based on more personalized services, depending on the needs of the user. But in all things the division will be working in the tradition of Herbert Putnam, who believed the Library's highest calling was to put a book in the reader's hand.

Vivienne Bourkoff is head of Interlibrary Loan at the Library of Congress.

Library Withdraws MARC Licensing Proposal For U.S. Subscribers

After consultations with the library community concerning the Library of Congress proposal to license MARC subscribers, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has withdrawn the licensing proposal as it pertains to the distribution of MARC records to U.S. subscribers.

With respect to foreign distribution of MARC records, the Library will review existing arrangements and make recommendations during the coming year.

The decision was announced in a letter from Henriette Avram, the Library's Associate Librarian for Collections Services, to MARC Distribution Service subscribers on March 6.

Mrs. Avram and Susan Tarr, chief of the Library's Cataloging Distribution Service, held a discussion session with more than 200 members of the American Library Association (ALA) at the midwinter meeting of ALA in Chicago in January. At that meeting, which was the culmination of talks which had taken place for some months, the Library's representatives outlined the Library's situation regarding the MARC records service. (See LC *Information Bulletin*, January 29, 1990, Vol. 49, No. 3).

As Mrs. Avram wrote to MARC Distribution Service subscribers on March 6: "We were eager for the library community to understand our intent in proposing the licensing agreement, which was to recover the full cost plus 10 percent for the distribution of MARC tapes, as required by law, with the least possible impact on single-institution subscribers. Above all, we wanted librarians to understand the urgency and extent of the challenge the Library faces in maintaining our bibliographic services and to support our efforts to get the funding we need to sustain them. We believe our consultations were positively received."

Because the licensing plan was not carried out and usage fees were not implemented in 1990, costs had to be added to the base subscription price charged to each subscriber who receives the MARC service.

Mrs. Avram said the Library of Congress would continue to work with the ad hoc groups appointed by several major library organizations to devise ways of dealing with the larger, more central problem of how to sustain the Library's national bibliographic program during an era of declining resources.

"We hope we can count on our colleagues to be increasingly supportive of our efforts to continue creating and distributing national-level bibliographic records," she said.

"I want to thank all those who communicated directly with us on this matter, all those who voiced their appreciation for the Library's contributions to libraries across the country, and all those who took the trouble to propose specific ways of assisting their national library," Mrs. Avram concluded.

Austrian Author Reads for Tape Archive

Ernst Schönwiese (photo by Ingrid Radauer-Helm)

Austrian author Ernst Schönwiese visited the Library of Congress on January 19 and read for the Library's Archive of World Literature on Tape, recording excerpts from his works *Versunken in den Traum* and *Antworten in der Vogelsprache*.

Mr. Schönwiese is one of the most influential of living Austrian poets. The recipient of numerous awards, he also holds seats in the *Österreichischer Kunstsenat* and in the *Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung*. He was most recently honored by the Austrian PEN Club with a reception on the occasion of his 85th birthday in Palais Schwarzenberg in Vienna.

During his visit to the Library, Mr. Schönwiese had a brief tour of the Great Hall after being greeted by David H. Kraus, acting chief, European Division, and Margrit B. Krewson, German/Dutch area specialist. His visit to the Library was arranged by the Embassy of Austria and the American-Austrian Society.

The USMARC Formats: Background and Principles Is Now Available

The Network Development and MARC Standards Office is making available a new pamphlet, *The USMARC Formats: Background and Principles.* The document serves as a general introduction to the USMARC formats and the principles underlying their development.

The pamphlet is a revision of "The USMARC Formats: Underlying Principles," which was published as an appendix to the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* in 1982. This appendix was edited and expanded by the USMARC advisory group in 1989, resulting in the new publication.

Copies of this free, eight-page pamphlet may be obtained by writing to the Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Havel *(Cont. from p. 118)*
speech before the joint session of the Congress the next day.

The visit did not lack flashes of Václav Havel's sense of humor. After examining Masaryk's documents he remarked to his entourage, "Here my ministers can see that it *is* possible to write important state documents and be brief." When invited to sign three books introduced to him as "works by the Czech writer Václav Havel," the president commented, "I heard about him."

He noted that one of the books shown to him, an early edition of his writings, is not in the collections of the Prague State Library.

President Havel was welcomed by Winston Tabb, Acting Deputy Librarian of Congress, and introduced to David H. Kraus, acting chief of the European Division; Larry Sullivan, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division; John P. Hardt, associate director for research coordination, Congressional Research Service; and George J. Kovtun, Czechoslovak area specialist in the European Division.

Library of Congress Aids Romanian Libraries

The Library of Congress is one of many libraries providing assistance to Romanian libraries in the wake of that country's recent revolution.

Upon learning of the destruction of the collections of the Central University Library of Bucharest, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington immediately offered to assist that library and other Romanian libraries in replacing their losses. His letter to the director of the university library was followed by a shipment of 210 volumes of key current reference works in February.

The need for aid to Romanian libraries was a subject of discussion at the Colloque international sur l'avenir des grandes bibliothèques [International symposium on the future of major research and public libraries] in Paris, January 30–February 2.

During the conference a motion was introduced to launch a "Springtime for Romanian Libraries" program on the first day of spring, March 20, to raise funds for Romanian library relief. Leaders of more than 40 libraries worldwide heard and responded to this appeal.

The Library of Congress is coordinating its continuing assistance efforts with the Books for Romania program of the American Library Association (ALA) and is in contact with Romanian research libraries to determine the extent of their needs for Western books and periodicals that might be supplied from Library of Congress duplicates.

Monetary contributions for the aid of Romanian libraries may be sent to Linda F. Crismond, Executive Director, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Checks may be made payable to the American Library Association/Romanian Relief Fund.

Those wishing to make book or periodical contributions to the Books for Romania program may contact Oprita Popa, Business Librarian, Shield Library, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

Bulgarian Poet Blaga Dimitrova Reads At Library on April 5

Bulgarian poet Blaga Dimitrova will read from her work on Thursday, April 5, in the Mumford Room on the sixth floor of the James Madison Memorial Building; English translations will also be read.

The reading is presented under the auspices of the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Poetry and Literature Fund and will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are not required.

Blaga Dimitrova was born in 1922 in the town of Byala Station and grew up in Turnovo, the old Bulgarian capital. She graduated from Sofia University in 1945 with a major in Slavic philology. She then took an advanced degree at the Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow.

Her first novel, *Putuvane kum sebe si* [Journey toward oneself], was published in 1965. She has since published much poetry and prose, including translations of poetry by Soviet writers.

Several of Ms. Dimitrova's poems were included in *Poets of Bulgaria* (1988), edited by William Meredith, with translations by John Balaban and John Updike. In 1989, *Because the Sea Is Black,* a collection of her poems selected and translated by Niko Boris and Heather McHugh, was published by the Wesleyan University Press.

This is Ms. Dimitrova's first visit to the United States.

Report on Serial Microform Cataloging Activities

Looking for an issue of the *Journal of the American Temperance Union* or the *Papers of the Society for the Diffusion of Political Knowledge*? These are only two of the recently cataloged serial titles that were rescued from the shelves of the Library of Congress and filmed as part of the Preservation Microfilming Program.

The program is administered by the Library of Congress Preservation Microfilming Office, which selects and prepares for filming titles that might otherwise be lost to future researchers. The Library's Photoduplication Service then produces a 35mm silver halide microfilm master negative and a positive service copy to be added to the Library's collections.

Until recently, there was no record in the Library's catalogs for many of the more than 8,000 serial microfilm titles filmed by the Library between 1968 and 1987. The only listing for most of these titles was given in the *National Register of Microform Masters*, published by the Library from 1965 to 1983.

The Serial Record Division began a project in 1989 to make more of the cataloging information about these titles available online to the Library's users and others. To date, 915 titles published in the United States have been cataloged, as well as over 600 titles in Spanish, German, Russian, and East European languages.

Although the majority of titles filmed are from the United States and Great Britain, the Library has filmed titles from all over the world and in many languages.

The U.S. collection is particularly rich in late 19th- and early 20th-century titles, encompassing every phase of American life and including many general interest titles such as *The Fireside Friend*, *The Happy Home*, and *The People's Favorite Magazine*. Most of the serials are in the humanities or social sciences and cover topics from suffrage, temperance, and abolition, to local history and religion.

Cataloging records are input to the OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) Online Union Catalog through the CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials) Program. CONSER records are then added to the Library of Congress MUMS (Multiple Use MARC System) database and to other bibliographic databases through distribution of the MARC tapes.

CONSER records are available nationally and internationally through these databases, through tape distribution, and through published sources such as *New Serial Titles* and *CONSER Microfiche*. Records for the various projects described are created by the Serial Record Division's CONSER Minimal Level Cataloging Section (CMLC).

With increased funding for preservation microfilming, many libraries are now undertaking the important task of saving crumbling serials and other library materials for posterity. The problems are worldwide in scope, as witnessed by the international attendance at a recent symposium, "Managing the Preservation of Serial Literature," sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations and hosted by the Library of Congress in May 1989.

One of the chief concerns expressed was the need for communication among libraries about which titles are being filmed. With an ever growing number of titles in danger, and limited resources to address the problem, it is essential that as many titles be filmed as possible and that duplication be avoided. The addition of records to the CONSER database provides information that is widely disseminated, both nationally and internationally, concerning the existence of Library of Congress microfilm.

Essential to the success of preservation efforts is timely input of cataloging data for titles slated for filming. Changes in cataloging policy and workflow at the Library now enable the CMLC staff to catalog titles at the time the decision is made to film the serial, rather than having to wait for completion of the film. As a result, information about Library preservation microfilm is available as much as a year earlier than it would have been in the past.

Another rich source of U.S. titles on microfilm now included in the Library's online catalog and on the MARC tapes is the American Periodical Series (APS) produced by University Microfilms International. The collection, consisting of three series, includes over 1,600 periodicals issued between 1741 and 1900. The CMLC Section has recently completed the authentication of all of the titles in the series.

Authentication involves the verification of data elements in a cataloging record, and the addition of a Library of Congress control number and authentication center code that enable the record to enter the MUMS database via tape and to be distributed as part of the USMARC tape subscription service.

In addition, the Library's microform shelving control number and serial record entry are added to the records. The records were originally input to the OCLC Online Union Catalog by a number of libraries, as part of the OCLC Major Microforms Project (formerly begun as the Association of Research Libraries Major Microforms Project). The New York State Library (also a CONSER participant) input many of the records before 1984, when participants began to authenticate their own records.

To facilitate the Library of Congress's verification of the records, OCLC provided printouts of the entire APS collection from the records on its database.

The CMLC Section has also authenticated serial titles included in several other microform sets held by the Library for which records have been created through the OCLC Major Microforms Project. These include the *History of Women, History of Photography, Moody's Manuals on Microfiche,* and *Early English Books, 1641–1700* (Wing Short-Title Catalogue). Other sets slated for future authentication are *Black Journals: Periodical Resources for Afro-American and African Studies* and *Herstory.*

As hard copy serials continue to deteriorate, the necessity of collecting and providing access to serials in microform increases. The CONSER records being created by the Serial Record Division are providing an important resource in the effort to control the flow of bibliographic information concerning microforms. The cataloging of titles filmed by the Library will alert others to the existence of a microform master, avoiding duplication of microfilming, while also making these resources more accessible to the Library's users.

The authentication of records for serials in sets provides access to a wealth of serial titles that may not be held in any other form in the Library. At the same time, the authentication process ensures the quality of the cataloging records and makes the records available to the national and international library community through CONSER tape distribution.

Library patrons will find preservation microforms and the American Periodical Series housed in the Library's Microform Reading Room. Other libraries may borrow Library of Congress-produced film on interlibrary loan or purchase the film from the Photoduplication Service.

For further information, contact Jean Hirons, Serial Record Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540; (202) 707-5947.

—Jean Hirons

CONSER Policy Committee Meets at the Library

CONSER councilor David Toll (right) at the CONSER annual meeting with John Stegenga, National Library of Canada, and Linda West, Cornell University.

The CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials) Program Policy Committee held its annual meeting at the Library of Congress, November 2-3, 1989.

A new dimension of the meeting this year was the presence of three of the four recently designated CONSER Councilors. The councilor is a category of membership intended to assure a "universal" perspective in the discussions and decisions of the policy committee.

Attending the meeting as councilors were: Paul Bunn, The British Library; John Eilts, Research Libraries Group; and David Toll, National Library of Australia. The fourth councilor is Suzanne Santiago, director of the International Serials Data System.

The two-day agenda included discussions of local systems, cataloging simplification, subject access, and preservation.

Faxon Joins CONSER

The Faxon Company of Westwood, Mass., an international serials subscriptions agency, is the newest affiliate member of the CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials) Program in the Serial Record Division of the Library of Congress.

Affiliate members, which also include EBSCO Subscription Services and the Chemical Abstracts Services' Library Services, contribute specific types of information to enhance CONSER records.

Richard R. Rowe, Faxon's chief executive officer, said this about Faxon's role in CONSER, "We at Faxon have had the highest regard for the CONSER Program. The role of affiliate member is one that we think will be very much in keeping with our long history of serving the library community.

"Historically, publishers have perceived themselves as somewhat remote from many bibliographic issues that face libraries. The opportunity to contribute to the CONSER database as part of our work routine with publishers will fill a need to connect the two groups and benefit us all."

Frederick Schwartz, manager, Electronic Data Interchange Services, oversaw Faxon's application to

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Year of the Young Reader Concludes With Symposium on Learning

Speakers at the opening session of the symposium were Gerald Lesser (left), Susan Roman, Virginia Mathews, and John Cole.

More than 110 librarians and officials of organizations dealing with children met at the Library of Congress on November 15 and 16, 1989, for the final Library of Congress event marking the "1989–The Year of the Young Reader" campaign: a symposium titled "Learning Opportunities for Children: Libraries and Their Partners."

The purpose of the symposium was to encourage a more active and purposeful collaboration between those who provide public library services for children and those who lead child advocacy and child serving agencies.

The conference began with a White House reception hosted by First Lady Barbara Bush, honorary chair of the Year of the Young Reader.

At the opening session in the Library's Mumford Room, John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, welcomed participants and introduced consultant Virginia Mathews, who served as symposium organizer and moderator, and Susan Roman, executive director of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

The keynote address was presented by Gerald Lesser of Harvard University's School of Education and a consultant for Children's Television Workshop.

The principal speakers the next day were: Bridget Lamont, State Librarian of Illinois; Jane Botham, director of Children's Services, Milwaukee Public Library; Suzanne Mahmoodi, Minnesota Office of Library Development; and Gretchen Wronka, Hennepin County Library, Minnetonka, Minn. The luncheon speaker was Nicholas Zill, president of Child Trends, who spoke on the topic "Children and Families at Risk in the 1990s: Who Intervenes?"

Librarians at the meeting heard representatives of groups such as Headstart, The Children's Defense Fund, the National Council of La Raza, the National Black Child Development Institute, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, Parents Without Partners, and the Southern Association on Children Under Six.

Ideas were shared about partnerships that would assist parents or other primary caregivers, the agencies involved, and the children themselves. Organizational representatives became acquainted with children's services in public libraries.

The assumption underlying the discussions, reaffirmed many times, was that library services and programming are helping children achieve lifetime literacy, personal confidence and competence, and the creativity that leads to intellectual development and entrepreneurship in jobs and careers.

The Center for the Book will nourish the new partnerships formed at the conference in several ways, beginning with concrete project proposals that will be spelled out in a forthcoming book based on symposium papers and discussion. Moreover, many of the activities now being planned for "1991–The Year of the Lifetime Reader" will focus on family literacy and on creating lifelong learning opportunities for young people.

The symposium was cosponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Association for Library Service to Children.

Book-Signing at Madison Sales Shop April 11

Author Vivian Sammons will sign copies of her book *Blacks in Science and Medicine* at the Library's Madison Sales Shop on Wednesday, April 11, from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Ms. Sammons retired from the Library of Congress as a science reference librarian.

Library Receives First Edition Of First American Architectural Work

The first edition of the first architectural work written by an American, *The Country Builder's Assistant*, by Asher Benjamin, has been donated to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Sanford Wallack of Chevy Chase, Md., in memory of her husband.

Published in 1797 by Thomas Dickman, in Greenfield, Mass., the book is a legendary rarity that the Library has long sought.

Born in 1773, Asher Benjamin began work as a housewright in his native state of Connecticut, and his unusual ability was immediately recognized. He soon moved to the rural community of Greenfield, Mass., and began designing and building houses in western New England towns such as Deerfield and Greenfield, Mass., and Windsor, Vt.

These experiences as a country architect alerted Benjamin to the fact that the printed builders guides then available, such as William Pain's *The Practical House Carpenter* and Batty Langley's *The Builder's Compleat Assistant*, which were imported from England, were not appropriate for American builders working outside the few metropolitan areas in the United States.

The English architectural country plans featured large houses with ornate decorative finishings that were not in keeping with rural Americans' resources, abilities, or tastes.

Though still in his mid-twenties, Benjamin set out to remedy this deficiency by publishing *The Country Builder's Assistant*, which consisted of 30 plates of graphic instructions demonstrating how to frame a house, lay out the dimensions of rooms, and construct doors, windows, and staircases.

Not only was Benjamin's book significantly smaller than similar books imported from Great Britain, but the design for ornamentation was less elaborate, in accordance with Americans' simpler approach to architecture.

Benjamin later recalled that his motivation for writing architectural books was "that not more than one third of the contents of the European publications on this subject are of any use to the American artist in directing him in the practical part of his business.

"The style of building in this country differs very considerably from that of Great Britain and other countries in Europe, which is partly in consequence of the more liberal appropriations made for buildings in those countries, and of the difference of materials used, particularly in the external decorations. The American mechanic is therefore, in purchasing European publications, under the necessity of paying two thirds the value of his purchase for what is of no real use to him."

Benjamin was not an innovative force on the architectural scene, but rather served through his seven books as a popularizer of prevailing native trends. His influence was felt as far away as Mississippi; and his writing, rather than the houses he built, made him a dominant popular force in early 19th-century American architectural practices.

The first edition of *The Country Builder's Assistant* is a significant addition to the Library's outstanding holdings for the study of early American architecture.

Sanford Wallack was a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from the Cleveland School of Art in 1938. After careers as an industrial designer for General Electric and as a furniture designer and manufacturer, he returned in retirement to his earliest enthusiasm, painting watercolors.

The Country Builder's Assistant will be housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

—James Gilreath

Country Studies Issued On Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Paraguay

The Library of Congress has issued four more volumes in a series of country studies prepared by the Library's Federal Research Division (FRD) under an agreement with the Department of the Army. The new volumes cover Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Paraguay.

Thailand: A Country Study was edited by Barbara Leitch LePoer, a senior research specialist at FRD, and published in December.

Bangladesh: A Country Study was published in January. The co-editors were James Heitzman, a former Library of Congress staff member, now director of information sciences at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, N.Y., and Robert L. Worden, head of the Asia Section, FRD.

The two volumes most recently released were *Vietnam: A Country Study*, edited by Ronald J. Cima, a former research analyst at FRD, and *Paraguay: A Country Study*, edited by Dennis M. Hanratty, formerly unit supervisor—Latin America at FRD and now a special assistant to the Associate Librarian for Management Services, and Sandra W. Meditz, head of the Western Europe and Latin America Section at FRD.

The series consists of more than 100 titles and covers approximately 143 sovereign states and 15 dependencies.

Intended as an introduction to an individual country, a typical book contains five chapters—history, society, economy, government, and national security. Each book is hardbound and contains modern and historical maps, charts, photographs, tables, bibliographies, a glossary, and an index.

A list of books in print in the series is available from the Country Studies Program, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

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Country Studies *(Cont. from p. 127)*

To purchase the books, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The title and stock number must be cited when ordering (Thailand—$18, number 008-020-01184-3; Bangladesh—$16, number 008-020-01189-4; Vietnam—$18, number 008-020-01190-8; Paraguay—$16, number 008-020-01194-1). Include check or money order payable to Superintendent of Documents.

Soviet Dance Scholars Visit Library

Eminent Soviet dance scholars Vera Krasovskaya and Elizabeth Souritz visited the Library of Congress November 13–14, 1989, and provided consultations on the current state of dance scholarship in the Soviet Union and on future directions for the Library's acquisition of Soviet dance publications.

Their visit was initiated by Vicky J. Wulff, dance reference librarian in the Performing Arts Library, and Declan C. Murphy, executive assistant in the Librarian's Office.

During their visit Mrs. Krasovskaya and Mrs. Souritz met with Elizabeth Auman and Ms. Wulff in the Music Division, where they were shown unique materials from the division's Diaghilev Collection. Poster curator Elena Millie and reference librarian George Hobart arranged for Mrs. Krasovskaya and Mrs. Souritz to view significant Russian materials from the Prints and Photographs Division.

The Soviet visitors had an opportunity to meet with other officials of the Library during a luncheon hosted by Acting Associate Librarian for Constituent Services Donald Curran. They were also given a tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building by Catherine O'Connor of Visitor Services.

As a result of this visit Ms. Wulff and Mrs. Souritz have established a continuing exchange of current bibliographies on Russian dance publications.

Music Division Cosponsors Colloquium On Historic Instruments

The Library of Congress Music Division, together with the American Recorder Society and the early music ensemble Hesperus, presented a Colloquium on Historic Instruments at the Library last fall during the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the American Recorder Society.

Tina Chancey, Hesperus instrumentalist and producing director, chaired a panel that included: Scott Reiss, recorder virtuoso and Hesperus artistic director; Robert Gilliam-Turner, recorder/flute maker, restorer, and performer; Scott Odell, head conservator, Conservation Department, National Museum of American History; and Robert Sheldon, curator of musical instrument collections, Library of Congress.

The discussions focused mainly on the pros and cons of playing actual antique instruments and the methods and degrees of restoration and conservation required or tolerable in the process.

The colloquium was enhanced by an exhibit of 21 historic recorders, flutes, and flageolets from the Dayton C. Miller Collection at the Library of Congress. The Miller Flute Collection is the largest of its type in the world (nearly 1,650 instruments and other related objects and library materials), and it contains many of the important historic recorders preserved in this hemisphere.

Two of the more stable examples were played briefly by Mr. Reiss to illustrate matters of tuning and timbre. Several dozen of the Miller collection instruments have been selected by instrument makers as prototypes for producing performance-worthy replicas.

After the November 18 colloquium the instruments were moved to the Library of Congress Performing Arts Library at the Kennedy Center, where they were put on exhibit for a concert presented by Hesperus on November 19. Peter Fay, head librarian, Performing Arts Section, arranged special Sunday hours so that the instruments would be available for viewing by concertgoers.

The Music Division received assistance from Ann Seibert and Doris Hamburg of the Conservation Office in determining environmentally safe locations in which to display the objects, as well as helping to devise a safe method of packing and moving them to and from the Kennedy Center.

Faxon *(Cont. from p. 125)*

the CONSER Program. Ann Scherma, supervisor of publications research, will be responsible for CONSER-related operations at Faxon. Under her supervision, research assistants will use information obtained directly from publishers, distributors, or sponsoring agencies to update Faxon's title and publisher files and the CONSER database, adding or modifying information in CONSER records relating to the frequency of the serial, the subscription price and address, as well as notes for abstracting and indexing coverage. Mr. Schwartz estimates that Faxon will update 3,000 to 4,000 records each year.

The CONSER Program is an effort to build and to maintain cooperatively a comprehensive machine-readable database of authoritative bibliographic information for serial publications, and to uphold standards and exercise leadership in the serials information community.

For further information on the CONSER Program, contact Linda Bartley, CONSER Operations Coordinator, Serial Record Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

STAFF NEWS

LCPA Membership Drive: Reaching for 2,000

The Library of Congress Professional Association (LCPA) is currently in the midst of its annual membership campaign and invites current and retired Library employees to join the more than 1,800 staff members who make up LCPA's growing membership. The 1990 campaign seeks to push LCPA membership over the 2,000 mark.

LCPA is an employees' organization which, though recognized by the Library, is independent in its structure, views, and finances. Its members receive the association's publications—*Insights* and the *Broadside*—which feature staff news, humor, book reviews, and notices of forthcoming LCPA events and activities, such as the annual book sale, art show, information forums, and language tables.

Despite its many activities, LCPA's annual dues remain only $4. A special invitation is issued to retirees. LCPA is eager to find ways for longtime staff members to share their experience while keeping in touch with their colleagues.

One of LCPA's major projects is its Continuing Education Fund (CEF). Created in 1983, the CEF helps LCPA members finance continued professional development. In 1989 five staff members received grants to pursue their education. Last year the CEF passed a milestone when its capital endowment exceeded $10,000. The CEF is supported by member contributions and the proceeds of special activities such as the annual book sale.

Staff members are invited to support the Continuing Education Fund at the time they renew membership by increasing the amount of their checks. If each of LCPA's 1,800 members gave $1, the CEF would grow by nearly 20 percent. Donations are tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Receipts will be provided.

Checks, payable to LCPA, may be sent to Judith P. Reid, Local History and Genealogy, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Co-chairs for the 1990 membership campaign are Charles Dove and Marilyn Nelson, Congressional Research Service.

Information Forums In April

The Library of Congress Professional Association (LCPA) invites all interested persons to participate in the following Information Forums in April. Information Forums are open to the public and meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:10 to 12:40 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Everyone is welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

April 4—Performing Arts Forum: "'Poet's Song:' World Premiere of the Video by Ray Schmitt, Featuring the Poetry of Jere Carroll with Jazz Accompaniment by Joseph Cunliffe" (portions filmed at a previous LCPA Information Forum). Mary Pickford Theater (no food or drink).

April 5—Publications Forum: "New Publications of the Library of Congress," Peter Braestrup, director, Office of Communications. Mumford Room, 11:30 am.

April 10—African Area Studies Forum: "Africa's Wars" (videotape), Raymond W. Copson, African affairs specialist, Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division, CRS. Room LM 315, FAND Conference Room A, 11:30 a.m.

April 12—Literature Forum: "Discussion of the Works of Juan Rulfo," Rob Shields, senior reference

(Cont. on p. 130)

The Modelskis Retire

Minnie A. Modelski and Andrew M. Modelski, two long-time staff members in the Geography and Map Division, retired in September 1989.

Minnie Modelski, a native of Ligonier, Pa., earned an undergraduate degree in geography, and an M.S.L.S., from the University of Pittsburgh.

She was appointed to the position of atlas cataloger in the Geography and Map Division in 1972, and she retired as a senior atlas cataloger. During her 17-year career she contributed significantly to the achievement of bibliographic control of the Library's renowned atlas collection.

In 1980 Mrs. Modelski was the recipient of a Meritorious Service Award for overseeing and executing a five-year project for upgrading and completing the Library's official atlas shelflist.

Andrew Modelski was born in Warsaw, Poland, and came to the United States with his family at the end of World War II. Following graduation from the University of Maryland in 1958, he joined the staff of the Geography and Map Division as a reference librarian in the Reference and Bibliography Section.

He was promoted to staff bibliographer in 1977, and was made head of the Acquisitions Unit in the division's Technical Services Section in 1981. During his eight-year tenure as head of this unit, the division experienced one of its most successful acquisition periods, acquiring materials ranging from rare, historic globes to microforms and remote-sensing images.

Mr. Modelski's encyclopedic knowledge of the Library's cartographic collections and his scholarly bibliographic works are well

(Cont. on. p. 130)

STAFF NEWS

Modelski *(Cont. from p. 129)*
known throughout the library community.

He was the author of "Railroad Maps of North America: The First Hundred Years," a popular work published by the Library of Congress in 1984. At the time of his retirement he was an associate editor for the *Handbook of Latin American Studies.*

Mr. Modelski has been active in a number of professional library, cartographic, and geographic organizations. He served as vice president (1977-78) and president (1978-79) of the Middle Atlantic Division, Association of American Geographers, and as regional councilor for the association.

He was elected vice president of the Washington Map Society in 1980 and serves on a number of committees in the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping.

In 1986 Mr. Modelski received a Meritorious Service Award for his contribution to the development and enrichment of the Library's cartographic collections.

The Modelskis reside at their new home, Corner Brook Farm, in Louisa County, Va.

Forums *(Cont. from p. 129)*
librarian, Rare Book Division. Room LJ 204 (European Division Conference Room, Northwest Pavilion).

April 17—Special Studies Forum: "The National Libraries of Malaysia, Mexico, and New Zealand: Views from the 1989-1990 International Interns," Asma Ahmat, National Library of Malaysia; Elda Monica Guerrero, Biblioteca Nacional de Mexico; and Rebecca Kennedy, National Library of New Zealand. Dining Room A.

April 19—Ethnic Resources Forum: "The Long Road Up the Hill: Blacks in the U.S. Congress, 1870-1980," Lillian E. Grandy, exhibits consultant. Room LM 642.

April 24—Converging Technologies Forum: "Neural Nets: An Introduction" (videotapes and discussion), Rich Greenfield, consultant, Planning Office, Room LM 642.

April 26—Management Forum: "A View from the Trenches: A Non-Manager Looks at Management," Thomas H. Neale, Government Division, CRS. Room LM 642.

Cecil Dixon and Eloisa Palau Retire

The careers of Cecil Dixon and Eloisa Palau—both cataloging editors in the Catalog Management and Publication Division (CM&P)—were celebrated at a retirement luncheon given in their honor on December 13, 1989. (They retired on December 29.)

At the luncheon, Kay F. Wexler, assistant chief of CM&P, praised their long and meritorious service and presented gifts from colleagues.

Mr. Dixon, who retired as a senior cataloging editor in National Union Catalog (NUC) Editorial Section II, earned his B.A. from Tennessee State University and joined the Library in 1959 after two years in the U.S. Army.

He held positions as searcher, series investigator, assistant supervisor and head filer, and card proof editor in the Catalog Maintenance, Card, and Union Catalog divisions of the former Processing Services. He was appointed to the NUC Publication Section in 1976 and reassigned in 1984 to the position from which he retired.

Ms. Palau began Library service in 1952 as a labeler in the Shelflisting Section of the Subject Cataloging Division and retired as a cataloging editor in NUC Editorial Section I.

During her career she worked as a card preparation assistant and arranger in the former Catalog Maintenance Division, and as a searcher, cataloger, senior preliminary cataloger, and reviser in the Descriptive Cataloging Division. She transferred to CM&P in 1985.

Obituaries

Martin C. Friess

Martin C. Friess, a senior cataloger/reviewer-reviser in the Literary Section of the Copyright Office Cataloging Division, died December 9. He was 33. A memorial service was held December 29.

Mr. Friess, a native of Bethesda, Md., graduated from Walter Johnson High School in 1973. In 1977 he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, with a major in religious studies. He did graduate work in philosophy at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

In 1978 Mr. Friess joined the staff of the Literary Section as a catalog-

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ing support specialist. He was promoted to cataloger in 1980, and received a Meritorious Service Award in 1983.

He left the Copyright Office in 1984 to pursue Spanish-language and Hispanic cultural studies at the postgraduate level in Mexico, where he met his future wife, Lorena. They returned to the Washington, D.C., area in 1986. That fall he was both pupil and teacher at the University of Maryland—pursuing his graduate work in Spanish and teaching Spanish at the undergraduate level.

Mr. Friess returned to Copyright Cataloging in 1987 as a cataloger in the Audiovisual Section, then returned to the Literary Section in April 1988. In February 1989 he was promoted to senior cataloger/reviewer-reviser.

As a cataloger, Mr. Friess's strong work ethic was reflected in his professional approach to all aspects of his job—he set high expectations for himself and willingly helped other catalogers in their work. His wide range of intellectual pursuits made him an invaluable resource.

In honor of his memory, and in recognition of his links with Mexican culture, friends and co-workers created an *ofrenda*, or memorial, at his desk. Some contributed personal mementos given to them by Mr. Friess; others offered poems, prose, and remembrances of the ways he had touched their lives.

Mr. Friess is survived by his wife, parents, and brother. In his memory, the division made a donation to the Save the Children Foundation, to which Mr. Friess began contributing in his teen years.

James L. Golliver

James L. Golliver, 49, supervisor of the Collections Maintenance Unit in the Geography and Map Division, died on December 23, 1989.

After receiving a bachelor of arts degree with a major in geography from Indiana University in 1963, Mr. Golliver served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force for six years, attaining the rank of captain.

He began his Library of Congress service as a library technician in the Geography and Map Division in 1970.

In 1973 Mr. Golliver was promoted to supervisory library technician in the Processing Section, where he directed the staff and operations of the Set Map Unit. One of his major accomplishments during the next two years was the elimination of a backlog of some 350,000 unprocessed set maps and charts, for which he received a quality increase in 1975.

That same year, Mr. Golliver assumed the direction of the newly created Collections Maintenance Unit as the result of a division reorganization.

In 1977 Mr. Golliver was the recipient of a Meritorious Service Award and a cash award in recognition of his success in planning and executing the expansion, rearrangement, and relocation of the Geography and Map Division's extensive atlas collection. The collection, containing some 40,000 volumes at that time, was completely reorganized over a three-month period during which there was no interruption in use.

As one of the division's move team leaders, he directed the packing and transporting of the collections from the Pickett Street Annex to the division's new quarters in the James Madison Memorial Building in 1980.

During his tenure in the Geography and Map Division, Mr. Golliver gained a wide reputation for his knowledge of the division's collections and their management. He was also recognized for his skill in phased map conservation techniques and his knowledge of equipment and materials used in housing and preserving map and atlas collections.

Mr. Golliver was an active member of the Library's Philatelic Club, and in 1989 he addressed the Washington Map Society on the use of maps as decorative devices on postage stamps.

He is survived by his wife, Holley, and son, Geoffrey, both of Dale City, Va.

Leonard A. Larson

Leonard A. Larson, former head of the Materiel Section, Contracts and Logistics, died on January 5. He was 67.

Mr. Larson began his career with the Library in 1979 after 32 years of service with the *Washington Star*. He was instrumental in outfitting the James Madison Building with its original furnishings, and in 1982 he received a Quality Service Award for this work.

Mr. Larson later became head of the Materiel Section, where he supervised several units. He was responsible for reorganizing the Landover Center Annex (LCA) warehouse and setting up a locator system which resulted in a more efficient operation at LCA.

He retired on May 31, 1989, to pursue his leisure activities of flying, hunting, and music.

Many co-workers remember Mr. Larson for his sincere honesty and dedication to the Library and its staff members.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and two children, Karen and Allan.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Md., or to Holy Cross Hospital, Silver Spring, Md.

Staff Carpool Locator

Two-person carpool from close-in Silver Spring, Md., seeks additional riders/drivers. Leaves 7:30 a.m. Call Connie Johnson, ext. 79829, or Steve Daggett, ext. 77642.

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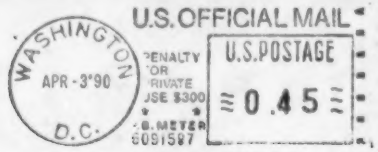

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